

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 TRSE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01 /076 W

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R 110625Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3945

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2627

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IZ

SUBJECT: CONTINUING SYRIAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ

1. SINCE JUNE 28 ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST SYRIAN BAATH PARTY COMMAND MEMBER IZZAWI, SYRIAN MEDIA HAVE INTENSIFIED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQI REGIME. DENUNCIATIONS OF IRAQ HAVE FILLED DAILY HEADLINES AND RECEIVED PROMINENT PLAY ON TELEVISION NEWS. MOST RECENT DEVELOPMENT IS REPORT BY EMBASSY LOCAL THAT DURING EVENING JULY 8 HE HEARD SPECIAL SYRIAN RADIO BROADCAST TO IRAQI PEOPLE ATTACKING SADDAM HUSSEIN. SIGNAL WAS VERY STRONG, HE SAID. RE IZZAWI, WHO IS REPORTEDLY PERMANENTLY CRIPPLED AS RESULT OF CAR BOOBY TRAP, INVESTIGATION IS REPORTEDLY CONTINUING WITH NO ANNOUNCED RESULTS TO DATE.

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2. JULY 2 PRESS CONTAINED REPORT OF FORMATION OF "KURDISTAN

NATIONAL UNION" AND STATEMENT BY IT CONDEMNING IRAN-IRAQ AGREEMENT AND IRAQI "DICTATORSHIP." STATEMENT ALSO EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLE OF KURDISH PEOPLE IN KURDISTAN, TURKEY AND IRAN AND THEIR RIGHT OF SELF DETERMINATION.

3. OTHER RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, REPORTED IN BEIRUT PRESS AND FBIS ARE:

(A) THAT SYRIA HAS ORDERED IRAQI MILITARY ATTACHE AND ASSISTANT ATTACHE TO LEAVE COUNTRY WITHIN 48 HOURS.
COMMENT: THIS IS TRUE. THERE WERE TWO LARGE TRUCKS LOADED WITH THEIR HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE AND BAGGAGE OUTSIDE IRAQI EMBASSY MORNING JULY 10.

(B) THAT SYRIA HAS DECIDED TO CLOSE OFFICE OF ITS MILITARY ATTACHE IN BAGHDAD AND RECALL STAFF.

(C) THAT IRAQI PAPER AL-THAWRA JULY 7 ACCUSED SYRIA OF FORMING AND AIDING KURDISH SABOTAGE GROUPS BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER END OF KURDISH REBELLION LAST MARCH.

4. IRAQIS HAVE ALSO PROTESTED TO ARAB LEAGUE AND DIRECTLY TO SYRIAN EMBASSY IN BAGHDAD VARIOUS ALLEGED BORDER VIOLATIONS OF IRAQI LAND AND AIRSPACE BY SYRIAN MILITARY UNITS IN AREA. THESE PROTESTS, REPORTED BY FBIS, GIVE DETAILS OF SPECIFIC VIOLATIONS, BUT WE CANNOT CONFIRM THEIR OCCURRENCE.

5. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT SYRIA HAS REINTENSIFIED ITS CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQI REGIME AND THAT PRESIDENT ASAD'S RECENT DESCRIPTION OF SYRIAN-IRAQI DISPUTE AS "A SUMMER CLOUD WHICH MUST DISSIPATE RAPIDLY" SERIOUSLY UNDERSTATES DEPTH OF SYRIAN CONCERN ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF ITS EASTERN NEIGHBOR.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROPAGANDA, FOREIGN RELATIONS, RADIO BROADCASTING, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC02627
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750239-0968
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750761/aaaaccjm.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINUING SYRIAN CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ
TAGS: PFOR, SY, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006